

Thus the array of *so-called* editorial blunders seem to resolve themselves into a few simple typographical errors, which every one who has anything to do with printing, must know how difficult it is to keep out of a work of this magnitude (400 pages, sixty-six plates), and while the general public may be able to "readily observe the wide gap between the genial and elegant work of Lesquereux and the lack of care and taste in the present edition," the editor earnestly begs them to look in the book for themselves, and throws himself upon their mercy.— F. H. KNOWLTON, *Washington, D. C.*

NEWS AND NOTES.

AT ITS LAST anniversary meeting the Royal Society awarded the Darwin Medal to Sir Joseph Hooker.

DR. G. VON LAGERHEIM has resigned his position in Quito, Ecuador, and gone to Tromsö, Norway, which is his present address.

AS WE GO to press word has been received of the death of Mr. I. C. Martindale, of Camden, N. J. His botanical specimens are known in many collections, and his own herbarium is one of the largest private collections in this country, and was always in most exemplary order.

MR. FRANCIS DARWIN, son of the great naturalist, and the joint author of *The Power of Movement in Plants*, at present Reader in Botany at Cambridge, has, on the nomination of Professor Babington, been appointed Deputy Professor for the current academical year.— *Gard. Chron.*

"THE COLLECTION of cycadeous plants in cultivation at Kew stands unrivalled, both in regard to the number of species represented, and the size of the specimens generally." This sentence introduces a very interesting account of the Kew Cycads, to be found in *Gardeners' Chronicle* (Oct. 22).

A NEW MONTHLY JOURNAL of botany is promised to make its appearance this month. It will be under the direction of members of the Botanical Department of the University of California, and under the editorial charge of Mr. Willis L. Jepson. Its name is to be *Erythea*, and its price \$1.50.

THE SIMULTANEOUS publication in the GAZETTE and the *American Naturalist* of Dr. G. W. Martin's paper on the development of the flowers and embryo-sac in Aster and Solidago was entirely unexpected by the editors of either journal. The author sent a copy to each without notice of the duplication, and by accident the article appeared in the same issues of both magazines.

M. CASIMIR DE CANDOLLE has repeated (more elaborately) Sachs' experiments upon the flowering of plants under the influence of the ultra-violet rays. It will be remembered that Sachs considered these rays indispensable to the formation of flowers. DeCandolle finds them to be favorable rather than indispensable, and the question still remains unanswered how the rays act.

PROBABLY THE LARGEST specimen of *Acanthorhiza aculeata* Wendl. (a curious species of Central American palms) in cultivation in Europe has just bloomed for the first time at Kew. The generic name refers to the curious spinous roots, which in the species mentioned clothe the stem to a height of a foot above the ground.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA has sent Professor B. Shimek to Nicaragua, to follow the route of the canal as near as practicable and make a general investigation of the country; its general character (fertility, climate, etc.), its people, its geology, its flora (special attention being paid to the cryptogamic flora), and its fauna. It is expected that he will return to Iowa City with his collections not later than April 1, 1893.

MR. GEO. M. THOMSON, of New Zealand, has an interesting paper in *Science* (Dec. 9) entitled "Biological Notes from New Zealand." We are delighted to see that under this caption our friend of the antipodes deals only with certain peculiarities of New Zealand plants! He notes particularly the rarity of those plant structures which are correlated with the presence of mammalia, such as spines for protection and hold-fasts for distribution.

MR. W. N. SUKSDORF, of White Salmon, has issued a catalogue of the phanerogams and pteridophytes of Washington. He has long been collector of that interesting flora, and his specimens are to be found in all our larger herbaria. As nearly all of his plants have been determined by eminent botanists, the recent catalogue can be relied upon. The list contains 1,642 phanerogams and 48 pteridophytes, and can be had of the author for 25 cents.

SEVERAL STATE ACADEMIES of science met during the holiday week. The program of the Nebraska society contains twenty-two papers, of which eight are upon botanical subjects. In Ohio there are thirty-seven papers upon the program, of which sixteen are botanical, in Iowa twenty-five papers of which eight are botanical, and in Indiana the program embraces ninety papers, of which twenty-five are botanical. These local societies appear to be flourishing, and are accomplishing a good work.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATION (a department of the N. E. A.), is considering the general subject of uniformity in school programs and in requirements for admission to college. President Eliot is the chairman of the standing committee of ten. This committee has appointed conference committees to discuss and report upon the different subjects. The conference committee on "Natural History" met at Chicago University, December 28th, and among its ten members are found the following botanists: Chas. E. Bessey, Douglas H. Campbell, and John M. Coulter.